

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING
13th March 2019 10am
Plough Place, London, EC4A 1DE

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Peter Ainsworth	Chair
Tony Burton	Vice Chair
Stella Everingham	Scotland Committee Member
Kevin Bone	England Committee Member
Sian Callaghan	Wales Committee Member
Michael Dobbins	Northern Ireland Committee Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dawn Austwick	Chief Exec
Joe Ferns	Director, UK Portfolio & Knowledge
Derek Bardowell	Senior Head of UK Portfolio
Assaya Imaya	Head of International Programmes
John Knights	Senior Portfolio Manager
Yvonne Campbell	Senior Portfolio Manager
Kanak Chhatralia	Governance Officer (minutes)
Dominic Newlyn	Governance Officer (minutes)
Beth Bell	Portfolio Manager [item 7]
Liz Watchorn	Portfolio Manager [items 7 & 9]
Nikki Clegg	Portfolio Manager [item 9]
Chris Manion	Learning & Programmes Manager [item 8)
Cassie Robinson	Head of Digital Grant-making [item 6]
Renu London	Portfolio Manager [item 7]
Mitali Sen	Portfolio Officer [item 8]

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Dominic Newlyn to his first UKFC meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1. Apologies were received from Elizabeth Passey. Apologies were also received for the last hour of the meeting from Michael Dobbins and Sian Callaghan.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1. Dawn Austwick declared an interest in Helpforce as a previous employee of Esmée Fairbairn, therefore she did not take part in the decision. Dawn also declared an interest in On Road Media as a friend of one of the Board members, therefore she did not take part in the discussions or decision.
- 3.2. Derek Bardowell declared an interest in Helpforce as a previous employee of Esmée Fairbairn whose trustee was one of the founders of HelpForce. Derek did not take part in the discussions.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – UKFC(19)M01

- 4.1. Minutes from previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Subject to the amendment at section 8.3:
- i. *Members noted the safeguarding review consultancy was due to be conducted in the new year and the final would enable the Fund to develop a safeguarding framework for the East Africa Disability Fund. The team would present a safeguarding and management review in the new year, working with the internal lead, Martin Cawley, to strengthen the paper.*
- 4.2. **ACTION: Governance to amend the minutes prior to sign off.**

5. ACTIONS ARISING – P01

- 5.1. All actions were covered in the papers.

6. PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW – P02

- 6.1. The committee noted the portfolio update including the Leaders with Lived Experience initiative which had yielded a lot of interest, exceeding predicted numbers and received a number of high-quality applications.

Digital

- 6.2. Cassie presented the progress of the Digital Fund programme which had also been highly popular. Data garnered from the applicants was rich and it had been interesting to see so many organisations wishing to transition to be more digitally savvy. Some of the strongest applications had been received from organisations completely re-evaluating their existence and redesigning their philosophy and brand.
- 6.3. It was reported that a fund wide approach was needed to support applicants to address some of the common themes shown in the Digital Fund applications. Around 79 applicants had been passed on to CAST who would benefit from training, as well as 100 applicants signposted to the workshops funded by DCMS run by Doteveryone, for leaders and trustees of social sector organisations.
- 6.4. **ACTION: Cassie Robinson to provide update including an analysis of all applicants at the next meeting.**

7. PORTFOLIO DECISIONS

- 7.1. Decisions on proposals presented for UKFC's consideration are restricted and can be found at Annex A.

8. INTERNATIONAL – P03

Overview

- 8.1. Imaya reported that the first East Africa Disability Fund advisory panel had successfully taken place in Kenya in the first week of March.
- 8.2. The refreshed strategy presented for committee's approval, was now more targeted and tightened based on conversations internally as well as with wider stakeholders, with a focus on 2 impact areas:
- i. people with disability
 - ii. to create change in the wider international development sector.
- 8.3. The UK portfolio will be moving to fewer, larger and more strategic grants being made in the next financial year to increase the Fund's potential for achieving longer term, systemic change.
- 8.4. **Decision: The UK Funding Committee approved the proposed strategy for the East Africa Disability Fund.**

Funding Decisions

- 8.5. Decisions on proposals presented for UKFC's consideration are restricted and can be found at Annex A.

9. POSITION PAPERS

UK Portfolio Annual Review – P04

- 9.1. Derek presented the findings of the annual portfolio review and highlighted that:
- i. The portfolio was working predominantly with small and medium originations, a change on previous years.
 - ii. A number of organisations new to the Fund were applying, with approximately 80% who had never applied before
 - iii. There was an eclectic mix and feel of applications

- iv. More partnerships were being funded than ever before, with the amount of money going to partnerships increasing, which was also replicated in the international strand.
 - v. There was an increasing volume of work supporting organisations with lived experience
 - vi. Due diligence in the team had increased and improved.
- 9.2. The UK Portfolio will work to shift to a thematic approach, being open and responsive in 6 key areas.
- 9.3. **ACTION: Joe Ferns and John Knights to present paper in June on the 6key areas the portfolio now seeks to cultivate.**
- 9.4. The committee welcomed the review, and agreed the mission and the broad direction of travel for the UK portfolio was now clearer and better understood, standing as a testament to the work of the team and country portfolios working closely.
- 9.5. Members stated the partnership work would present interesting insights and opportunities to garner data and evidence to feed into the learnings and the role of the UK portfolio afforded a greater opportunity to do more cross-Fund work.
- 9.6. It was reported that this would be Derek's last meeting prior to his 6-month sabbatical and John Knights would therefore be the acting Senior Head of Portfolio until his return.
- 9.7. The committee expressed their thanks to Derek for his work to date and looked forward to his return.

Proposed Environmental Strategy – P05

- 9.8. Joe Ferns introduced the proposed environmental strategy which had been devised after internal and external consultations, sought approval from committee for a commitment of £100m to support environmental action over the next 10/11 years, and presented a number of questions for committee's consideration.
- 9.9. The next steps would be to move towards a launch and publicly define our ambitions, acknowledging it would excite huge demand.
- 9.10. Members had expected the initiative to have advanced further since the last meeting, but were happy that the ambition was still for a 10-year commitment with a focus on actions to address climate change.
- 9.11. The committee discussed the potential delivery options and favoured a multi strand approach, including a small grants programme. Members further discussed the Fund's capacity to deliver a number of small grants programme simultaneously and expressed the need for the programme to be open to applicants soon after any announcements are made.
- 9.12. There was a desire to distribute funding as soon as possible, and members discussed a number of different delivery options, agreeing on an outline of a place-based programme. The programme would offer development funding for partnerships that encouraged local people to lead and implement practical projects that were supported by their local public bodies. It was agreed that a key focus should be on diverse partnerships that include groups not currently involved in addressing climate change, changing local and wider systems and giving applicants the opportunity to define the scale and size of 'place'.
- 9.13. Members discussed the need to carefully frame the programme in light of the views of those consulted thus far and agreed that the final plan should consider a thematic approach.
- 9.14. **ACTION: Joe Ferns to build a construct of what the environment action initiative could look and present the 1st part of the programme to committee in June.**
- 9.15. **Decision: The UK Funding Committee agreed on the launch of the product and the recommendation to commit £100m over 10/11 yrs.**

25th Anniversary Funding Plans – P06

- 9.16. The committee noted the paper outlining the proposals for a funding initiative to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Lottery, which incorporated a gradual build up to November and were designed to activate people to do something for their local communities.

- 9.17. The campaign would act as a reminder of the massive changes the Fund has supported over this time, with a key point being the next generation and focus for the next 25 years.
- 9.18. The funding initiative would be easily accessible, with the approach similar to the People's Projects, but working via social media and it was highly likely that it would be prefaced by a short film which would be focused solely on the Fund.
- 9.19. It was reported that there were risks identified if processed through social media platform, however the team were working to mitigate them, including consulting with experts and the committee welcomed support from Kevin Bone on suggesting suitable organisations to bid for work.
- 9.20. Members agreed that a request for further funding, to meet excess demand, should be presented to other country portfolios.
- 9.21. **Decision: The UK Funding Committee agreed to the allocation of £7.5m to the 25th anniversary funding initiative and approach other countries for further funding.**

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1430.

MINUTES AGREED

DATE

**PETER AINSWORTH
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE & BOARD CHAIR**